

**News from Shimpo Ceramics  
For Immediate Release**

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## **Shimpo Acquires ConeArt Kilns Incorporated!**

**ITASCA, ILLINOIS; May 2, 1998** – On February 1, 1998, Nidec-Shimpo America Corporation acquired ConeArt Kilns Incorporated of Richmond Hill, Ontario Canada. The kiln product line will be sold through the Shimpo Ceramics Division, known worldwide in the ceramic community for its quality products and “Tradition of Excellence”.

Says Drew Hartanov, C.O.O. of Nidec-Shimpo America Corporation: “we pursued the acquisition to strengthen our already strong commitment to the ceramic community. With the addition of the kilns to our product portfolio of potter’s wheels, banding wheels and pug mills, we now offer ceramists one of the most complete product lines in the market. Shimpo is recognized in this industry for our high quality product standards; we believe this to be unquestionably the best constructed kiln on the market.”

Shimpo ConeArt kilns will continue to be manufactured in Canada with continued input from Frank Tucker, former owner of Cone Art Kilns Incorporated. “We have always offered the most reliable, durable and superbly built kilns on the market” says Frank. “The strict quality guidelines will not change. I am excited to be a part of the Shimpo team.”

The Shimpo ConeArt kilns were unveiled with extraordinary fanfare late March at the 1998 NCECA Conference. Shimpo’s booth was continually crowded with attendees registering to win a Shimpo ConeArt double wall kiln equipped with an Orton Autofire Plus™ electronic controller. The raffle was held at the close of the show; the lucky winner was Miss Jessica Pitre-Williams, a student of the University of Dallas.

For additional information on Shimpo’s ConeArt kilns, contact your local Shimpo dealer or call Shimpo directly at (800) 237-7079.

Shimpo Ceramics, a division of Nidec-Shimpo America Corporation, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of ceramic equipment including potter’s wheels, electric kilns, pug mills, banding wheels and accessories to the pottery, hobby and school markets.